

Testimony Opposed to SB 255
Removing partner benefits from state employees

My name is Pam Gerwe. My partner, Representative Mike Jopek and I have been together 18 years. We have raised a foster child together, and own and operate a farm. My employer's health insurance plan is changing, so Mike and I are planning to buy insurance through his state plan, but SB 255 would change all that.

We are both very concerned about this potential loss of partner benefits. No one is giving anything away here. We simply want to buy into the state insurance pool like countless other couples in Montana. The ability to buy affordable, health insurance is an important benefit.

SB 255 would not save the state a dime, and it would have enormous costs to households like mine, who will go uninsured, or underinsured, once again, pushing healthcare costs upward for all of us.

Please vote NO on SB 255.